



# ***NEWS***

*Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke*

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Gertrude Baines, the state's oldest living resident on Wednesday credited her faith in God and clean living for her longevity as she celebrated her 112<sup>th</sup> year with a party at the West Adams Convalescent Center she calls home.

"I feel good. This arthritis got me. I can't walk, but I sure can talk and eat", Baines said. "I have no secrets. I put my trust in the Lord, that's all. I have no secrets." Baines, who lives at the Western Convalescent Hospital, spends much of her time attending church and watching television. "She likes the 'Price is Right', and she loves 'Jerry Springer,'" said nurse Cynthia Thompson. "It's one of her favorites. She loves 'Jerry Springer'.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, whose Second District is home to Baines, was present to honor her at the celebration. "Mrs. Baines, happy birthday," Burke told the centenarian. "One thing it sure shows – soul food doesn't kill you. If you've been eating ham hocks and bacon and eggs and black eyed peas and you got to 112 that says something."

Baines was born in Shellman, GA, on April 6, 1894, the same year as artist Norman Rockwell and author Dashiell Hammett. She was married to Sam Conley at a "very young age" – she won't be specific. The couple had one child, Annabelle, who died of typhoid fever when she was 28. She lived alone until she was 105.

"We feel blessed to have her," hospital administrator, Emma Cananag said of Baines. "It's been an honor having the oldest living person in California in our facility."